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HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE PALMETTO REGIMENT IN MEXICO.—The following most interesting letter in regard to the conduct of the Palmetto Regiment in Mexico is in possession of Mr. Wade Hampton Gibbes, of Columbia, who has kindly permitted it to be copied for publication here:

Addressed: His Excellency
Gov. David Johnson
Columbia¹
South Carolina
United States.

Postmarked: Vera Cruz
Mex Oct 2
and
Columbia S C
22 Oct

H^d = Qrs. 1st = Brig. Vol. Div
San Augustine Sept. 2nd = 1847

Sir

Permit me to condole with you and your State upon the loss of one of its citizens, and one of the bravest and noblest officers of the army Col- Pierce M. Butler He rose from a sick bed on the 19th = Ult. when his regiment was ordered to march from this place to the battle field of Contreras—placed himself at its head, and weak and feeble as he then was, encouraged and animated his troops over one of the most difficult routes, ever trod by the foot of man-

On the morning of the 20th = when the attack was made on the enemy's position he threw his regiment across the main road to Mexico—and poured a fire so terrible and destructive on the enemy's masses that the road and corn fields might be said to be left literally covered with the dead and dying.

From Contreras, where the force under Valencia was broken to pieces we pursued the routed foe toward Mexico and came up with the main body of his army strongly fortified, at the village of Chiribusco—Here the odds against that portion of the force which I had the honor to command were fearful, five to one at least, with every advantage of ground- Nothing however remained for us but to assault and carry

¹ "Columbia" is stricken out and "Limestone Springs" is inserted. The regular postage charged was 10c and 5c more for forwarding.

his position- A check under the circumstances would be equivalent to a defeat—even a defeat would result in the entire destruction of the army- We advanced therefore against the enemy under one of the most terrible fires to which soldiers were ever submitted- The roll of musketry was so incessant that it resembled one prolonged continuous volley- The conduct of the Palmetto regiment both officers and men, on this occasion has never been surpassed on the field of battle- The Col whose great and noble qualities had endeared him not only to his own regiment but to the whole army having been previously wounded as well as having his horse shot under him advanced on foot in the front rank of his regiment, animating and encouraging his men, until a musket ball through the head terminated his life- The Lieut Col, was shot down about twenty minutes afterwards with the colors of the regiment in his hand- The major upon whom the command next devolved pushed forward his force with spirit and gallantry—and though upwards of one third of the number fell on the field the charge was successful, the enemy was driven from his position, and hotly pursued close to the gates of Mexico-

I could also speak of the gallantry of the New York and other regiments of my command in this connexion—but deem it inappropriate in a letter of this character- The victory though one of the most glorious ever achieved by American arms has been dearly purchased by the sacrifice of some of the noblest spirits of our country- The loss of Col- Butler in particular has been deeply felt by the whole army To me he was endeared by the strongest ties of love and friendship- I mourned over his fall with feelings of deep and heartfelt affliction and through my whole life, whatever may be my own future fate I shall always take a deep interest in all that concerns his name and family- Permit me sir to say in conclusion that I trust the gallant State upon which his death has shed such lustre will supply the place of guardian and protector to his widowed family-

I have the honor to be Sir

Your obdt Servt

Ja^s: Shields

Brig Genl

His Excellency

David Johnson

Gov. of S. C.

Endorsed: Brig. Genl. Shields

2 Sep. 1847

Death of Genl. Butler.

Copy forwarded to Mr-- Butler

27 Oct 47.

A MISCHIEFMAKER AMONG THE CHEROKEES IN 1775.—The following affidavit in relation to a British emissary among the Cherokees in 1775 was purchased by Prof. Yates Snowden, now of the chair of history at the South Carolina College, at the sale of the J. H. V. Arnold collection in New York last year:

Ninety Six District }

Before us James Mayson, and John Caldwell
Two of his Majestys Justices Assigned to keep the peace in Ninety Six District—Personally Came and Appeared Mr. Robert Goudey, who being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, Deposeth and Sayeth, That this Day a Certain Cherokee Indian, Named the Man Killer of Keowee Formerly now Seneca Informed him this Deponent That Some Few Days ago, a certain John Vann Told the Indians in the Cherokee Nation that they must fall upon the White people on This Side Savanah River and kill them (Meaning the people of South Carolina) That the Other Side Savanah they must let alone, and Further Says That Mr. Alexander Cameron Sent to the over Hill Warriors and That on their Comeing he gave them presents of Rum and That they Returned home with it, and That this talk of Vans was Delivered in Seneca Town House, That the Indians Told Vann they Could not go to War, that they had no Ammunition

Robt Gouedy

Sworn to before us this 10th: Day)
of July, at 12. o'clock at Night) Jn^o Caldwell
Jas.. Mayson

First Endorsement: Robt. Gouedy
affidavit—
about the Cherokees—

Second Endorsement: Robt. Goudy's affidavit
10 July 1775. on Indian
affairs—

THE CAPTURE OF FORT CHARLOTTE.—In the January, 1900, issue of this magazine several documents were printed (pp. 44–51) among the Council of Safety papers relating to the taking of Fort Charlotte—the first overt act of the Revolution so far as South Carolina was concerned. Those documents show that the fort was captured by Major James Mayson, of the 3rd. Regiment (Rangers) of South Carolina regulars, with the companies of Captains Caldwell and Kirk-

land of the same regiment. The following report, made by Capt. Caldwell to Major Mayson and forwarded by him to the Council of Safety, was purchased at the Arnold sale in New York last year by Prof. Yates Snowden, now of the South Carolina College:

Fort Charlotte 17th: July 1775

Sir

I have Sent you Inclosed, a Return of the Artillery Ammunition and Stores of Fort Charlotte—I have with Captain Whitefield's Assistance examined the State of the Garrison Officer's House and Barracks Stores & Ca.—I find the Walls both top and Sides in absolute need of being new painted, The Magazine Requires to be new plastered and the Oven is quite useless—As there is no platformes, and but few very Indifferant Carriages, the Great Guns are by that means rendered unserviceable, the Officers house is barely Tenatable, and upon the mode upon which it is Constructed, is incapable of Repair—The Barracks and Store houses want new sills, in Consequence of that a full Repair—From the best Information I can get Mr. Allen Cameron, has absolutely declined excepting the Commission Confered upon him by this Country, as I am Told from good authority that he Received his Commission in a Letter from Maj^r. Williamson that he did not think it worth his while to Return an answer I shoud be much Obliged to you to Write to the Council of Safety on this Occasion.

I am Sr.

Y^r. Verry Hu^l Set.

Jn^o Caldwell

First Endorsement: Capt John Caldwell
17th. July 1775. Answered
the 18th—to be laid before the
Hon^{ble}. The Council of Safety.

Second Endorsement: Capt. Caldwell to ———
17 July 1775—containing
state of Fort Charlotte
Recd. 25th.

PROVISIONING SOLDIERS IN 1775.—The following is another of the documents purchased by Prof. Yates Snowden at the Arnold sale in New York:

Receiv'd of the Contractor for Victualling the two Regiments of Foot in the Provincial Service Seven thousand three hund^d & Eighty two rations of different Species for the use of the First Regiment being from the 29th. day of June to the 31st. day of July both days included and for which I have signed two Receipts of this tenor & date

Sims White

Q^r. Master—

Charles Town 31st. July 1775—

Endorsed: Q^r. Master White's
Certificate to Contrac-
tor 31 July 1775—

ONE OF GENERAL WINN'S ORDERS.—The following order from Gen. Richard Winn to one of his colonels has been copied from the original in possession of Prof. Yates Snowden:

Winn's borough 4th. May 1787

Sir

You will please to Order a General Muster of your Regiment at Beaver Creek on Wednesday the 30th. of this Inst. Tho if you can make it Convenient I had much Rather the Rendezvous would be at Granby,

The Governor & myself will be at the Review, I shant go into particulars you being an Old Officer, Only beg leave to Mention that it will be necessary for your Officers & Men to Appeare in the best Manner, if the Officers have Not Side Arms let them take Guns, you will direct your Capt^s. to make you Accurate Returns of their Companyes on the day of Review

As it is possible your Regiment may Not be fully Officered I have herewith sent you Ten Blank Commissions, which you will please to have fil'd up & delivered to Such Gentlemen as may be Appointed, Observing to Commission no person but such that will have a true Sense of their Appointment—

You will Also Receive Ten feint Coppies of Militia Law's which you will distribute to your Officers, I shall Leave All Others Maters to your Good judgement

& beg Leave to Subscribe myself
with due Consideration

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servt.
Richard Winn

Just below the name on this letter is this memorandum in pencil: "Gen. Winn succeeded Gen. Henderson as Brig. Gen. appointed by the Gov. & Council Nov. 21, 1783"

LOGAN.—"Died, on Saturday last, *William Logan*, Esq. a native of this State, aged 75 years and six months. Mr. William Logan was a grandson of George Logan, Esq. one of the first settlers in this state, who came from Aberdeen (Scotland) in the year 1690; a colonel in the British army then stationed in Charleston."—*The Times* (Charleston, S. C.), Monday, June 7, 1802.

SOME REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.—"Dr. William Keith, jun. is appointed a Physician and Surgeon to the General Hospital, in the Room of the Deceased Dr. Air."—*The South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, Thursday, July 3, 1777.

"Died at his plantation in St. John, Berkley county, major *Ephraim Mitchell*, of the late 4th, or artillery regiment, raised in this state on continental establishment, and late surveyor general of this state."—*The City Gazette & Daily Advertiser*, Friday, March 16, 1792.

DIED.] Yesterday, Mr. *James Johnson*, formerly a lieutenant in the 2d Pennsylvania regiment on continental establishment."—*The City Gazette & Daily Advertiser*, Friday, April 6, 1792.

"Last Sunday morning died at Sandy Hill, occasioned by a fall from his horse the preceding evening Lieut. Col. STEWART, of the Maryland line, whose untimely death is much lamented by his acquaintance, particularly by the officers belonging to the army.—His remains were on Monday morning brought to town, and in the afternoon interred in St. Philip's Church yard, with military honours, attended by a great number of his brother officers, and many of the inhabitants."—*The South-Carolina Weekly Gazette*, Saturday, March 29, 1783.

"DEATHS. At Amelia township, Dr. Alexander Rogers, surgeon to Col. Thomson's regiment. His attention to the duties of his profession joined to a benevolent heart, gained him many friends, who now regret his death."—*The South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, Thursday, October 29, 1778.

THE JEWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—Dr. Barnett A. Elzas's book with the foregoing title is out at last, the delay having been caused by a strike in the printing house of the J. B. Lippincott Company, from the press of which the book was issued. The volume consists of 352 pages of printed matter and 12 illustrations. It is undoubtedly the handsomest extensive work bearing exclusively on South Carolina ever brought out, the typography, paper and mechanical execution being of the highest order. As a piece of scientific work it has no superior in South Carolina bibliography and few superiors in the bibliography of America. Dr. Elzas has scarcely left a stone unturned in working up his topic; every available source of information has been most painstakingly investigated, and the material brought to light by him is enough to cause one to marvel. The manner in which he has put his material together is admirable, and the style, force and vigor of the work disclose the splendid scholarship of the writer.